Common entrance exam

474. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Supreme Court's order of August 14, 2003 demanding a common entrance examination on all India basis for professional programme, has not been implemented as yet and the institutes are still conducting individual examination as they used to earlier;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action Government propose to take against those institutions which have not implemented the orders so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) The Supreme Court in its order dated 14th August, 2003 did not specify a single common entrance examination on all India basis for admission to professional programmes.

(b) and (c) Not applicable.

Free primary education

†475. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the regime of NDA Government in pursuance of the constitutional provisions, free primary education to teenagers upto 14 years was enshrined in the list of fundamental rights, and whether it was expected to be implemented across the country by the year 2008;

(b) if so, the present status of the said scheme;

(c) whether the scheme has been discontinued; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) The Constitution (86th amendment) Act , 2002, enacted in December, 2002 seeks to make free and compulsory education a Fundamental Right for all children in the age-group 6-14 years by inserting a new Article 21-A in Part III (Fundamental Right) of the Constitution. The new Article 21A. Right to Education reads as follows:

> "The State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years in such manner as the State may, by law, determine."

The amendment does not refer to the year 2008.

Based on the report of a committee set up by the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) to suggest a draft of the legislation envisaged under Article 21A, a complete version of the draft has been prepared and sent to all State Governments and UTs, and placed on the website for comments from the public at large.

Text Book Regulatory Council

476. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a Text Book Regulatory Council to review and regulate education in religion based private institution;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the view point of the various State Governments have been taken/elicited in the matter;

(d) whether it is a fact that history in Saraswati Vidyalayas is presented in a distorted form; and

(e) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir.